

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

T2154-906320

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

**COPY**

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/FR 99/01047

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  
03 May 1999(03.05.99)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  
22 May 1998(22.05.98)

TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD FOR ALTERNATING THE STACKING DIRECTION OF FLAT AND FLEXIBLE  
OBJECTS, MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING SAID METHOD AND BATCH-FORMING INSTALLATIONS EQUIPPED WITH

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US  
REMERICQ, MAURICE

SAID MEANS

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☐ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

**Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:**

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.  
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:

Correspondence Address and Notice of Filing Without Declaration

17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				<b>CALCULATIONS</b> PTO USE ONLY	
<b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5) ) :</b>					
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO . . . . .				<b>\$970.00</b>	
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO . . . . .				<b>\$840.00</b>	
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO . . . . .				<b>\$690.00</b>	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) . . . . .				<b>\$670.00</b>	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) . . . . .				<b>\$96.00</b>	
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>\$ 970.00</b>	
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				<b>\$ 130.00</b>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	11 - 20 =	---	X <b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	---	X <b>\$78.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ <b>\$260.0</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$1,100.00</b>	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				<b>\$</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$1,100.00</b>	
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				<b>\$</b>	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$1,100.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property				<b>\$</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$1,100.00</b>	
				<b>Amount to be refunded:</b>	<b>\$</b>
				<b>charged:</b>	<b>\$</b>

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 1,100.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1165. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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NAME

22,549

REGISTRATION NUMBER

5210

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 DEC 2001

#9

Docket: T2154-906320

**IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)**

Applicant: Maurice REMERICQ  
International  
Application No. PCT/FR99/01047

International  
Filing Date: 03 May 1999 (03.05.99)

U.S. Serial No.: 09/463,294

U.S. Filing Date: 24 January 2000 (24.01.00)

For: METHOD FOR ALTERNATING THE STACKING DIRECTION OF FLAT AND  
FLEXIBLE OBJECTS, MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING SAID METHOD AND BATCH-  
FORMING INSTALLATIONS EQUIPPED WITH SAID MEANS

**RECEIVED**  
09 JAN 2002  
Legal staff  
International Division

**RENEWED REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF NOTIFICATION OF  
ABANDONMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests [MPEP, §711.03] reconsideration of the "DECISION  
ON PETITION" DATED November 8, 2001 and again requests that the Notification of  
Abandonment dated July 3, 2001 be withdrawn and the application reinstated as properly  
pending before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

The DECISION states:

"---This application became abandoned based on applicant's failure to  
file the English translation of the international application (and related  
processing fee) in response to the Notification Of Missing Requirements  
mailed 10 April 2000 and the Notification Of A Defective Response and  
Notification Of A Defective Translation mailed 31 May 2000. The  
present submission does not include a copy of the missing English  
translation of the international application, nor does it provide any  
evidence that the translation was previously filed (i.e., a stamped return  
postcard itemizing the English translation). Absent the submission by  
applicant of a copy of the English translation and evidence that such  
translation was in fact filed on 24 January 2000, the present holding of

abandonment remains appropriate.---Applicant must provide an English translation of the international application and either: (1) evidence that this translation was filed by applicant, as claimed, on 24 January 2000; or (2) a grantable petition to revive the international application.

The undersigned attorney for applicant herein confirms that the indicated translation was indeed filed on January 24, 2000; however, it was included as part of a package of papers entitled, (1) TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371, (2) PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT and (3) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS AND NOTICE OF FILING WITHOUT DECLARATION.


In paper (1), the box marked "A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))" was clearly checked.

The translation was included in the package after paper (3). It is believed that an inspection of the official file will reveal that the translation is, indeed, present as part of that package of papers filed on January 24, 2000 immediately behind or after the above-identified paper (3). In any event, the fact that the appropriate box in paper (1) was checked is prima facie evidence that the translation was filed. It is not inconceivable that the translation became detached from the above package of papers or otherwise misplaced in the USPTO.

A further copy of the translation is enclosed herewith. Accordingly, please withdraw the abandonment of the application and reinstate the application on the active docket.

Respectfully submitted,

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE

By   
Dennis P. Clarke  
Reg. No. 22,549

Filed: December 28, 2001

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09/463294  
428 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 JAN 2000

Docket No. T2154-906320

**IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)**

Applicant : MAURICE REMERICQ

International  
Application No. : PCT/FR 99/01047

International  
Filing Date : 03 May 1999 (03.05.99)

For : METHOD FOR ALTERNATING THE STACKING  
DIRECTION OF FLAT AND FLEXIBLE OBJECTS,  
MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING SAID METHOD  
AND BATCH-FORMING INSTALLATIONS  
EQUIPPED WITH SAID MEANS

U.S. Serial No. :

U.S. Filing Date : 24 January 2000 (24.01.00)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-captioned application, please  
amend the same as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 3, line 1: delete "or 2"

Claim 4, line 1: delete "any one of claims 1 to 3" and insert - - claim 1 - -

Claim 5, line 1: delete "any one of claims 1 to 4" and insert - - claim 1 - -

Claim 6, lines 1-2: delete "any one of claims 1 to 5" and insert - - claim 1 - -

Claim 11, line 3: delete "any one of claims 6 to 10" and insert - - claim 6 - -

**REMARKS**

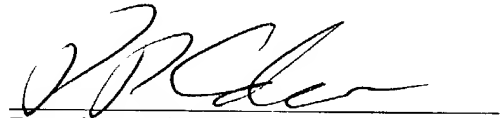
Entry of the foregoing amendments prior to an examination on the merits of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested.

The foregoing amendments merely correct the improper multiple dependent claim format and reduce the concomitant filing fees therefor.

If any additional fees are required, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 50-1165.

Respectfully submitted,

**MILES & STOCKBRIDGE, P.C.**



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A METHOD OF ALTERNATING THE STACKING DIRECTION OF OBJECTS THAT ARE FLAT AND FLEXIBLE, MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE METHOD, AND AN INSTALLATION FOR MAKING UP BATCHES AND FITTED WITH SUCH MEANS

5       The invention relates to a method of alternating the stacking direction of flat and flexible objects which are to be stacked in order to make up a batch ready for packaging.

10       The invention also relates to means for implementing the method and to installations for making up batches and fitted with such means.

15       The invention relates particularly but not exclusively to a method used in an industrial installation for making up batches of flat objects and operating at high speed.

Although not limiting, the term "installation operating at high speed" is used to mean an installation which operates at a throughput of treated objects in excess of several hundred objects per minute.

20       By way of example, the flat objects can be products that are flexible and deformable in the thickness direction, such as hygiene products made of absorbent material.

25       In such batches, the flat objects are placed substantially parallel to one another, one against another, in particular so as to be ready for placing in a box or bag that encloses a volume that is substantially in the form of a rectangular parallelepiped, and that is as small as possible in size.

30       When such hygiene products are folded over prior to being packaged, whether they are folded in two or in three, they present extra thickness, at least in the vicinity of a fold.

35       The extra thicknesses of the various items in a batch accumulate, thereby giving rise to batches being formed having two opposite faces that lie in intersecting planes.



Such a wedge shape is detrimental to the packing of such batches in a small volume.

An effective solution to this problem of building up batches that are wedge-shaped consists in alternating the stacking direction of the items.

The above-mentioned hygiene products are manufactured at throughputs greater than several hundred items per minute, so the speed of which they leave the machine manufacturing them is therefore high.

The invention relates specifically to a method suitable for alternating the items without repercussions on their method of manufacture.

A result that the invention seeks to achieve is a method of alternating items that can be implemented without repercussions on the operation of an existing installation, and without requiring substantial modification of that installation.

To this end, the invention provides a method of alternating the stacking direction of flexible flat

objects which are to be stacked in order to constitute batches ready for packaging, the method being characterized in particular in that in order to make up sets of items suitable for constituting batches of items in which at least two items are placed head-to-tail, the following operations are performed during travel of the compartments past the loading station, downstream from said station:

- at a determined "extraction" site, at least one item is extracted from a compartment in which it has been placed; and
- the orientation of each extracted item is changed so that it can be placed in a determined empty compartment head-to-tail relative to its initial insertion direction in the loading station; and
- at a determined "reinsertion" station said reoriented item is inserted into an empty compartment.

The invention will be well understood on reading the following description given by way of non-limiting example and made with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

- Figure 1 is a plan view of an installation implementing a device for making up batches each comprising a determined number of items coming successively from a production machine;
- Figures 2 and 3 are on a larger scale and show a detail of how means are embodied for implementing the method; and

• Figure 4 is a section view on AA of Figure 2.

With reference to the drawings, there can be seen an installation 1 for making up batches 2 each comprising a determined number of items 3 coming in succession from a production machine 4.

This installation 1 for making up batches 2 serves to receive the items 3 as they are produced and to place them side by side and substantially parallel to one another so that they can make up said batches 2.

In Figure 1, the direction in which some of the items are oriented is represented by means of arrows referenced S1 and S2.

Orientation direction S1 corresponds to the  
5 insertion direction, but that is not limiting.

The item referenced 3R is an item that has been turned round, while the item 3 is an item whose orientation has not been changed.

Also in characteristic manner, the items 3 are extracted and reinserted in succession, i.e. one by one.

For example, as shown, every other item 3 is  
20 extracted and then reinserted.

Preferably, a device 1R comprises means M1, M2, and M3 for implementing the method, said means consisting in:

· orientation-changing means M2 for changing the orientation of each extracted item 3 so that it can be placed in a determined compartment 1A head-to-tail

35 relative to its initial insertion direction; and

· control means M4 for controlling the operation of the above-specified means M1, M2, and M3 synchronously with the device 1 for making up batches 2.

The extraction means M1 consists in means M1 for extracting items 3 one by one.

The extraction means M1 comprises a drive-and-guide element 11 for driving and guiding at least one extractor stop 12 over an "accompanying" path, i.e. a path T3 which intersects the path T2 of the compartments 1A in a plane onto which the paths are projected, said accompanying path being oriented in such a manner that each extractor stop 12 that comes into contact with an item 3 pushes it out from its compartment 1A at the extraction site A and continues to do so at least until said item 3 has been engaged in the orientation-changing means M2.

The orientation-changing means M2 for changing the orientation of each extracted item 3, i.e. the means M2 for turning end-for-end each item 3 extracted from a compartment 1A, consists in means M2 for guiding the item 3 over a curved path T1 situated in a plane that is approximately parallel to the plane containing the travel path T2 of the compartments 1A between the extraction site A and the site B for reinsertion into a compartment 1A.

The means M2 is disposed to receive each item 3 extracted from a compartment 1A by the means M1 provided for this purpose.

The insertion means M3 for inserting each item 3 one by one into an empty compartment 1A is constituted by means M3 for moving each item 3 along a path T4 which intersects the path followed by the compartments 1A in a plane onto which the paths are projected, and which is oriented in such a manner that each item 3 is pushed into

a compartment 1A, and is pushed at least until said item 3 has been fully engaged in said compartment 1A.

The means M4 for controlling the operation of the above-mentioned means M1, M2, and M3 so that they operate  
5 synchronously relies on conventional elements for managing the operation of electric motor means, and it is not described in greater detail.

The orientation-changing means M2 for changing the orientation of each item 3 as extracted from a  
10 compartment 1A essentially comprises a set of two belts C1 and C2 which, driven by motor means (not shown) travel over deflector members R1 to R9 and present two adjacent strands B1 and B2, which strands B1 and B2 define means  
15 both for gripping an item 3 across its thickness and for moving the item 3 over a substantially curved path T1, said adjacent strands B1 and B2 for this purpose:

- firstly each extending between the site A for extracting an item 3 from a compartment 1A and site B for reinserting said item 3 into a compartment 1A; and
- 20 • secondly being situated in a plane that is approximately parallel to a plane containing the travel path T2 of the compartments 1A, between said extraction and reinsertion sites A and B.

Advantageously, the orientation-changing means M2  
25 includes a deflector member R1 of diameter D such that a major fraction of its circumference defines a curved path T1 that is tangentially connected to the paths T3 and T4 for extracting and reinserting the items 3.

The orientation-changing means M2 has deflector  
30 members R2 and R3 which are disposed so as to deflect and space apart the belts C1 and C2 approximately into a plane substantially tangential to the compartments, thereby constituting at least part of the insertion means M3 for inserting each item 3 one by one into an empty  
35 compartment 1A.

In the various figures, unreferenced arrows symbolize the directions in which the main members rotate or move.

## CLAIMS

- 1/ A method of alternating the stacking direction (3) of flat and flexible objects which are received as they are produced by a device (1) which places them side by side substantially parallel to one another, so as to enable them to constitute batches (2), said device (1) comprising a plurality of compartments (1A) supported by an element (1B) for moving the compartments between at least two stations (1C, 1D), comprising firstly a station (1C) for loading said compartments (1A) with items (3) delivered in succession in a determined insertion direction (S1), and secondly a station (1D) for unloading at least one set (E) of items ready to constitute a batch (2),
- the method being characterized in that in order to make up sets (E) of items suitable for constituting batches (2) of items (3) in which at least two items (3) are placed head-to-tail, the following operations are performed during travel of the compartments (1A) past the loading station (1C), downstream from said station (1C):
- at a determined "extraction" site (A), at least one item (3) is extracted from a compartment (1A) in which it has been placed; and
  - the orientation of each extracted item (3) is changed so that it can be placed in a determined empty compartment (1A) head-to-tail relative to its initial insertion direction (S1) in the loading station (1C); and
  - at a determined "reinsertion" station (B) said reoriented item (3) is inserted into an empty compartment (1A).

2/ A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the items (3) are extracted and then reinserted in succession, i.e. they are acted on one by one.

3/ A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that each item (3) is reinserted into a compartment (1A)



which, relative to the travel direction, is situated downstream from the compartment (1A) from which the extraction has been performed.

5 4/ A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3,  
characterized in that in order to turn each item (3)  
extracted from a compartment (1A) end-for-end, it is  
caused to follow a curved path (T1) situated in a plane  
(P1) approximately parallel to a plane (P2) containing  
10 the travel path (T2) of the compartments (1A) between the  
extraction site (A) and the site (B) for reinsertion into  
a compartment (1A).

5/ A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4,  
15 characterized in that the means comprise:

· extraction means (M1) for extracting at least one item (3) from the compartments (1A) at a determined "extraction" site (A); and

· orientation-changing means (M2) for changing the orientation of each extracted item (3) so that it can be placed in a determined compartment (1A) head-to-tail relative to its initial insertion direction; and

· insertion means (M3) for inserting said reoriented item (3) in an empty compartment (1A) at a likewise determined "reinsertion" site (B); together with

· control means (M4) for controlling the operation of the above-specified means (M1, M2, M3) synchronously with the device (1) for making up batches (2).

30 6/ Means for implementing the method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the extraction means (M1) comprises a drive-and-guide element (11) for driving and guiding at least one extractor stop (12) over an "accompanying" path, i.e. a path (T3) which intersects  
35 the path (T2) of the compartments (1A) in a plane onto which the paths are projected, said accompanying path being oriented in such a manner that each extractor stop

(12) that comes into contact with an item (3) pushes it out from its compartment (1A) at the extraction site (A), and continues to do so at least until said item (3) has been engaged in the orientation-changing means (M2).

5

7/ Means according to claim 6, characterized in that the orientation-changing means (M2) for changing the orientation of each extracted item (3), i.e. the means (M2) for turning end-for-end each item (3) extracted from a compartment (1A), consists in means (M2) for guiding the item (3) over a curved path (T1) situated in a plane that is approximately parallel to a plane containing the travel path (T2) of the compartments (1A) between the extraction site (A) and the site (B) for reinsertion into a compartment (1A).

15

8/ Means according to claim 6, characterized in that the insertion means (M3) for inserting each item (3) one by one into an empty compartment (1A) is constituted by means (M3) for displacing each item (3) along a path (T4) which intersects the path of the compartments (1A) in a plane onto which the paths are projected, and which is oriented in such a manner that each item (3) is pushed into a compartment (1A), and is pushed at least until said item (3) has been fully engaged in said compartment (1A).

25

9/ Means according to claim 6, characterized in that the orientation-changing means (M2) for changing the orientation of each item (3) extracted from a compartment (1A) essentially comprises a set of two belts (C1, C2) which, driven by motor means (R1) travel over deflector members (R1 to R9) and present two adjacent strands (B1, B2), which strands (B1, B2) define means both for gripping an item (3) across its thickness and for moving said item (3) over a path (T1) that is substantially curved, said adjacent strands (B1, B2) for this purpose:

30

35



## A B S T R A C T

A METHOD OF ALTERNATING THE STACKING DIRECTION OF OBJECTS  
THAT ARE FLAT AND FLEXIBLE, MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE  
5 METHOD, AND AN INSTALLATION FOR MAKING UP BATCHES AND  
FITTED WITH SUCH MEANS

The invention relates to a method of alternating the  
stacking direction (3) of flat objects which are received  
10 and disposed parallel to one another by a device (1) so  
as to enable them to make up batches (2); said device (1)  
comprising a plurality of compartments. The method is  
characterized in that in order to make up sets of items  
suitable for making up batches (2) of items (3) in which  
15 at least two items (3) are placed head-to-tail, the  
following operations are performed while the compartments  
travel past the loading station (1C):

- an item (3) is extracted from a compartment (1A);  
and
- 20 • the orientation of the extracted item (3) is  
modified so that it can be placed head-to-tail relative  
to its initial insertion direction (S1) in a determined  
empty compartment; and
- at a determined reinsertion site, said reoriented  
25 item (3) is inserted into an empty compartment.

30

Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the  
35 Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made  
subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2,  
38.2, and/or 48.3.

**Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application**  
**Declaration Pour Demandes de Brevets Avec Pouvoirs**  
**French Language Declaration**

En tant qu' inventeur nommé ci-après, Je déclare par le présent acte que:

Mon nom, mon domicile, mon adresse postale, ma nationalité sont ceux qui figurent ci-après,

Je déclare que je crois être l'inventeur original, premier et unique (si un seul nom figure sur le présent acte) ou un des co-inventeurs, originaux et premiers (si plusieurs noms figurent sur le présent acte) du sujet revendiqué et pour lequel un brevet est demandé sur la base de l'invention intitulée:

Procédé pour alterner le sens

d'empilage d'objets plats et souples,

moyens pour la mise en oeuvre du procédé et installation de  
constitution de lots équipés de ces moyens  
dont la description  
(cocher la case correspondante)

☐ est annexée au présent acte.

☐ a été déposée \_\_\_\_\_

Numéro de série de la demande \_\_\_\_\_

et modifiée le \_\_\_\_\_  
(si approprié)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as

Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir examiné et compris le contenu de la description identifiée ci-dessus, revendications y compris, et le cas échéant telle que modifiée par l'amendement cité plus haut.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

Je reconnais le devoir de divulguer l'information qui est en rapport avec l'examen de cette demande selon Titre 37 du Code des Règlements Fédéraux §1.56.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

# French Language Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte le bénéfice de priorité étrangère selon Titre 35, du Code des Etats-Unis, §119 de toute demande de brevet ou d'attestation d'inventeur énumérée ci-après, et j'ai identifié également ci-après toute demande étrangère de brevet ou d'attestation d'inventeur ayant une date de dépôt antérieure à celle de la demande pour laquelle la priorité est revendiquée.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior foreign applications

Demande(s) de brevet antérieure(s) dans un autre pays:

<u>98.06627</u> (Number) (Numéro)	<u>FRANCE</u> (Country) (Pays)	<u>98.05.22</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed) (Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Oui	<input type="checkbox"/> No Non
 (Number) (Numéro)	 (Country) (Pays)	 (Day/Month/Year Filed) (Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Oui	<input type="checkbox"/> No Non
 (Number) (Numéro)	 (Country) (Pays)	 (Day/Month/Year Filed) (Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Oui	<input type="checkbox"/> No Non

Priority claimed

Droit de priorité  
revendiqué

Je revendique par le présent acte, le bénéfice selon Titre 35 du Code des Etats-Unis, §120 de toute(s) demande(s) américaines énumérée(s) ci-après et, dans la mesure où le sujet de chacune des revendications de cette demande n'est pas divulgué dans la demande américaine antérieure, de la façon définie par le premier paragraphe de Titre 35 du Code des Etats-Unis, §112, je reconnais le devoir de divulguer l'information pertinente selon Titre 37 du Code des Règlements Fédéraux, §1.56, toute information qui se présente entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande, soit nationale, soit internationale PCT.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>PCT/FR99/O1047</u> (Application Serial No.) (No. de Demande)	<u>99.05.03</u> (Filing Date) (Date de Dépôt)
 (Application Serial No.) (No. de Demande)	 (Filing Date) (Date de Dépôt)

<u>(Etat)</u> (brevetée, pendante, abandonnée)	<u>(Status)</u> (patented, pending, abandoned)
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<u>(Etat)</u> (brevetée, pendante, abandonnée)	<u>(Status)</u> (patented, pending, abandoned)
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Je déclare par le présent acte que toutes mes déclarations, à ma connaissance, sont vraies et que toutes les déclarations faites à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions, sont tenues pour être vraies; de plus, toutes ces déclarations ont été faites en sachant que de fausses déclarations volontaires ou autres actes de même nature sont sanctionnées par une amende ou un emprisonnement, ou les deux, selon la Section 1001, du Titre 18 de Code des Etats-Unis et que de telles déclarations délibérément fausses peuvent compromettre la validité de la demande ou du brevet délivré.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

# French Language Declaration

POUVOIR: En tant qu'inventeur, je désigne l'(les) avocat(s) et/ou l'(les) agent(s) suivant(s) pour poursuivre la procédure de cette demande et traiter toute affaire la concernant suprs du Bureau des Brevets et de Marques

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

Harold L. Stowell, Reg. 17,233  
Edward J. Kondracki, Reg. 20,604  
Dennis P. Clarke, Reg. 22,549  
William L. Feeney, Reg. 29,918  
John C. Kerins, Reg. 32,421

Harold L. Stowell, Reg. 17,233  
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Nom complet du seul ou premier inventeur <u>REMERICO Maurice</u>	Full name of sole or first inventor
Signature de l'inventeur <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>13/12/99</u>	Inventor's signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date
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Adresse Postale	Post Office Address
Nom complet du second co-inventeur, le cas echeant	Full name of second joint inventor, if any
Signature de l'inventeur Date	Second Inventor's signature Date
Domicile	Residence
Nationalité	Citizenship
Adresse Postale	Post Office Address

(Fournir les mêmes renseignements et la signature de tout co-inventeur supplémentaire.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)